

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 DODE-00 PM-03 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02

SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 /065 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB - CLSTERMER:MFG

APPROVED BY EA/TB - GBROBERTS

AID - MS. WAMPLER (DRAFT)

AID - JFINK (DRAFT)

S/NM - JRAFFERTY (DRAFT)

EA/RA - WGALLAGHER (DRAFT)

----- 101313

R 302105Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL - HELICOPTERS

REF: RANGOON 0061

1. DEPARTMENT ALSO HAS GIVEN THOUGHT TO TIMING OF PROCURE-
MENT OF ADDITIONAL 12 HELICOPTERS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION
THE SAME FACTORS NOTED PARA 5 REFTTEL, INCLUDING PROVISIONS
OF JUNE 29, 1974 AGREEMENT.

2. IN SEEKING INFORMATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, BELL
HELICOPTER HAS PROVIDED US WITH DATA AS FOLLOWS: IF THE USG
WERE TO ISSUE A LETTER EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THE NEAR
FUTURE FOR SIX HELICOPTERS, THE FIRST GROUP OF THREE COULD
BE DELIVERED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF CY 76 AND THE
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SECOND GROUP IN THE SECOND QUARTER. THIS LETTER WOULD HAVE
TO BE CONFIRMED BY FORMAL CONTRACT NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER
30. ANOTHER LETTER FOR THE REMAINING SIX HELICOPTERS
COULD BE ISSUED BY OCTOBER THIS YEAR FOR DELIVERY OF THREE

EACH DURING THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF CY 76. THIS LETTER ALSO WOULD HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED BY FORMAL CONTRACT BY MARCH 1976. THIS PROCEDURE WOULD REQUIRE FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GUB IN SEPTEMBER 1975 AND MARCH 1976.

3. BEFORE INITIATING ACTION FOR EITHER OF THESE LETTERS EXPRESSING INTEREST, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE SATISFIED THAT THE RELEVANT TERMS OF THE 1974 AGREEMENT HAD BEEN MET, NAMELY, THAT THE BURMESE WERE UTILIZING THE PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED AIRCRAFT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR INTENDED USE. AS YOU KNOW, THESE HELICOPTERS WILL BE DELIVERED SOMETIME DURING JUNE AND PRESUMABLY COULD BE OPERATIONAL WITHIN A FEW WEEKS THEREAFTER. GIVEN THE ONSET OF THE MONSOON SEASON AT THAT TIME AND THE POSSIBILITY TRAFFICKERS ARE NOT ACTIVE DURING THIS PERIOD, HELICOPTER USE MAY BE LIMITED AND THEREFORE A FAIR JUDGEMENT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE. QUITE ASIDE FROM THESE POINTS, EVEN IF THE BURMESE WERE ABLE TO MAKE OPTIMUM USE OF THE HELICOPTERS BETWEEN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER, THIS MAY PROVIDE INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE EMBASSY TO DETERMINE THE ACTUAL USE OF THE HELICOPTERS. THEREFORE, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KNOW WHETHER THE EMBASSY BELIEVES A VALID ASSESSMENT COULD BE MADE BY EARLY SEPTEMBER ON HOW THE FIRST THREE HELICOPTERS WERE BEING USED.

4. WE ALSO INVITE YOUR VIEWS ON WHETHER A COMMITMENT FOR THE LAST SIX HELICOPTERS SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE THE SECOND SIX HAVE ARRIVED. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO FURNISH THE GUB WITH THE MAXIMUM AIRLIFT CAPABILITY OF MOVING SECURITY FORCES INTO NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AREAS AND HEROIN PRODUCING SITES. IF THE GUB DEMONSTRATES ITS WILLINGNESS TO UTILIZE THE AIRCRAFT AS ENVISIONED, ALLOCATES POL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES ACCORDINGLY AND MOVES AGGRESSIVELY TO FULFILL THESE OBJECTIVES, THEN PERHAPS AN ACCELERATED PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE CAN BEGIN AS OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

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5. APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS SOONEST AND ASSUME, OF COURSE, THAT GUB WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE APPRISED OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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